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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement on measures to eliminate international terrorism (see annex), made by the Republic of Armenia on behalf of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at the meeting of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly on 3 October 2016.

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement on measures to eliminate international terrorism made by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are deeply concerned about the greatly increased threat posed by terrorism to international peace, security and the sovereignty of States.

We firmly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No terrorist acts can be justified, whether on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or other grounds. The barbaric mass murder of civilians, destruction of historical and cultural monuments, and desecration of religious sites perpetrated by the terrorists are incompatible with the norms of morality and the principles of humanism.

In order to combat this scourge effectively, the efforts of the entire international community need to be consolidated. In this regard we call for the formation of a broad anti-terrorist coalition under the auspices of the United Nations, on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and also the universal counter-terrorist conventions and protocols, without politicization and preconditions.

We note the need for strict fulfilment of the requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions and of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of the United Nations, and also the early adoption of the United Nations comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The priority task now is to put a stop to the activities of international terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida, Jabhat al-Nusra and related groupings which pose a threat to all humanity.

The eradication of this global evil will contribute to the further expansion of cooperation among States both at the political level, and at the level of special services and relevant ministries and departments. It is precisely States and their competent bodies which should play a defining role in the effective elimination of terrorism at both the national and the international levels.

We attach fundamental importance among counter-terrorist measures to stopping the spread of the ideology of terrorism and extremism, and also the implementation of agreed measures in relation to persons returning into the territory of CSTO member States after participating in acts and actions of international terrorist organizations as foreign terrorist fighters. We are convinced that, in order to strengthen the immunity of States and societies to the spread of radical ideas, the efforts of the competent authorities of States must be backed up by the potential of civil society organizations, the information media, scientific and educational institutions and religious communities.

We are convinced that terrorism cannot be combated successfully without completely cutting off its sources of financing, as required by relevant resolutions of the Security Council, especially resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), and the international standards on the prevention of money-laundering developed by the Financial Action Task Force. We support the efforts made at the multilateral level to identify States, individuals and legal entities which have economic ties with ISIL, Al-Qaida, Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist groupings, and to block completely the channels of financial and logistical support for terrorism.

We express our readiness to engage in constructive cooperation in combating terrorism and other criminal challenges and threats to security with all interested States and international organizations.